



PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW  
Director

**County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

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January 30, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW  
Director

**EXTENSION REQUEST: JANUARY 10, 2006 AGENDA ITEM #2: FEASIBILITY  
OF CRISIS NURSERIES, MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BURKE AND AN  
AMENDMENT BY SUPERVISOR KNABE RE: POTENTIAL SITES**

On January 10, 2006, in response to a motion by Supervisor Burke, the Board ordered the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) along with the Community Development Commission to report back in 180 days on the feasibility of developing in Los Angeles County, a series of "Crisis Nurseries," State Licensed nurseries that operate with modified staffing levels, including volunteers, for the short-term residential care and supervision of children, ages 0 to 6, placed due to a crisis or stressful situation such as homelessness.

Thus far, the Department has conducted research regarding existing crisis nurseries, an analysis of legislative issues, a site visit to the Relief Nurseries, Inc. in Eugene, Oregon, and a review of literature. We have also received information from the California Department of Social Services, Northern California Children's Residential Program, Community Development Commission, and from visits to the Sacramento Regional Crisis Nursery Collaboration, Sacramento Crisis Nurseries North and South, and Yolo County Crisis Nursery in Davis.

We have learned that crisis nurseries are open twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week and can shelter young children for up to thirty days. Relief nurseries, on the other hand, are open during regular daytime business hours and do not provide overnight shelter for children. Crisis nurseries emphasize shelter and provide no other direct services (instead referring parents to outside agencies) while relief nurseries are designed to provide direct services rather than shelter.

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The Second District has requested that they conduct a site visit in conjunction with the Northern California Regional Crisis Nursery Collaboration's monthly meeting and a tour of three of the local crisis nurseries. My Department is requesting a 16-week extension so that we may include input from the Second District's visit to Northern California in our report on the feasibility of developing a network of Crisis Nurseries in Los Angeles County.

Unless otherwise directed, I will proceed with a new Board report submission date of Tuesday, May 15, 2007. If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Armand Montiel, Board Liaison, at (213) 351-5530.

PP:LP:ES:emm

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors